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**Student-Proposed Legislation to Inform Foster Children
of Their Rights Unanimously Passes Florida House of
Representatives**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida House of Representatives today passed **House Bill 1093** by **Representative Susan L. Valdés (D-Tampa)** by a unanimous 119-0 vote.

HB 1093 was proposed by high school students as part of the “Ought to be a Law” program at Sumner High School in Hillsborough County. The bill would require that caseworkers or other staff must inform children in out-of-home placement of their rights and options for reporting abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The information would then be reviewed with the child every six months or upon a new placement.

“I am honored to carry legislation conceptualized and proposed by our students,” said **Representative Valdés**. “It is their world we are shaping, and I firmly believe that we should be giving our young people a voice in the governing process. They saw a real-life problem that was even impacting some of their own classmates, and they came up with a proposal to solve the issue and improve people’s lives. This is civic engagement at its finest. Every voice matters.”

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